



U.S. Department of Justice

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PRESS RELEASE
***FELONY INFORMATION CHARGES
OGDEN MEN WITH ATTEMPT TO EXPORT
PARTS FOR F-14 AND F-4 FIGHTER AIRCRAFTS
WITHOUT OBTAINING LICENSE***

SALT LAKE CITY -- A three-count Felony Information filed in federal court Thursday afternoon in Salt Lake City charges Abraham Trujillo and David Wayne, both of Ogden, with attempting to illegally export parts for F-14 and F-4 fighter aircrafts without obtaining a license.

A summons will be issued to Trujillo, age 61, and Waye, age 22, to appear before a federal magistrate judge. Trujillo and Waye are charged with three violations of the Arms Export Control Act.

The Act authorizes the U. S. Department of State's Directorate of Defense Trade Controls to establish the United States Munitions List to regulate the import and export of defense articles and services. Articles and services on this list are subject to certain export and import restrictions. Anyone who wants to export items included on the U.S. Munitions List must first register with the State Department and apply for and receive a license or other approval to export such articles. Violations of the Act carry maximum potential penalties of 10 years imprisonment, a \$1 million dollar fine, or both per count. Defendants charged in a Felony Information are presumed innocent unless or until proven guilty in court.

"While this is a relatively new area of prosecution, it is an alleged violation of federal law we take very seriously. The Arms Export Control Act is in place to serve a very important purpose. It is important, given the threats we face around the world, to make sure that defense articles don't fall into the wrong hands. Those who attempt to violate or circumvent the Act's controls can expect aggressive investigation and prosecution in Utah," U.S. Attorney Brett L. Tolman said.

The investigation began when agents for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) discovered the listing of F-14 parts on a centralized inventory website, offered by Trujillo and his business, NSN Specialists, based most recently in Ogden, Utah. Over the next several months, agents purchased cable assemblies and other items from Trujillo which required a license to export. A license was never obtained. Instead, Trujillo and his associates allegedly made attempts to send the items out of the country making efforts to disguise the true nature of the goods, which were in fact intercepted by ICE before the items ever left the country.

The items purchased by ICE agents in the course of the investigation are very significant. For example, during the reign of the Shah of Iran, particularly during the 1960s and 1970s, numerous United States weapons systems were sold and provided to Iran under Foreign Military Sales contracts administered by the United States Department of Defense or by direct commercial sales by aerospace companies. Examples of such weapons systems include the Northrop Grumman F-14 Tomcat Fighter

Aircraft and the McDonnell Douglas F-4 Phantom Fighter Aircraft. Currently, Iran is the only country that flies the F-14 Tomcat.

Due to the embargo placed on Iran by the United States after the fall of the Shah, an illegal trade has developed to supply Iran with components to maintain these weapons systems. This illegal trade resulted in the establishment of numerous front companies in international locations and an increase demand for international arms dealers. These front companies and arms dealers either contact U.S.-based aerospace supply companies directly in search of components for the weapons systems or they use U.S. contacts or U.S. front companies to contact U.S.-based aerospace supply companies in search of components to supply the Iranian military.

This case was a joint investigation by ICE and the Defense Criminal Investigative Service.

"This investigation is yet another example of ICE's commitment to strengthen our national security on a global perspective," said Miguel Unzueta, Special Agent in Charge for ICE investigations in San Diego. "ICE agents have had a long standing reputation for effectively utilizing their unique expertise and authorities to uncover illicit arms trafficking schemes that attempt to exploit U.S. arms trafficking laws for personal gain or other nefarious motives."

"The illegal export of Department of Defense weapons and technology is one of our top investigative priorities," said Rick W. Gwin, Special Agent in Charge for the Defense Criminal Investigative Service, Western Field Office. "America's adversaries are actively trying to acquire sensitive U.S. military technology which has the potential to do harm to the U.S. war fighter and threaten our national security. This case should serve as a warning to those who intend to circumvent export laws that the DCIS will aggressively pursue and investigate all allegations."

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